

To the Honorable Commissioners of the FCC,

I cannot stress enough how much I believe recent decisions that allow media conglomeration have hurt, lessened, and hindered the qualities of media in these United States. I implore you to do everything in your powers to keep big money and power off the airwaves. I would kindly ask that any limits conceived of be placed upon this now desolate radio market and patently one-sided television market. I find it sad that I have to resort to international media to hear unbiased news let alone get enough opinions or "recollections" of the facts to be able to make informed intelligent decisions. I can not praise funding for NPR and PRI enough nor any other public news and programming. I used to live in Tampa Florida and here they have an incredibly enriching and vibrant radio station that is independent of public monies or corporate taint. They manage to provide more service and forum to the community than any television or radio station I have ever encountered elsewhere. All with private donations. We basically give frequency and airtime to commercial interest with the understanding that they will work for the greater good. Some of the networks didn't carry the State of the Union Address because it wasn't good for ratings!!! Please take back the electromagnetic spectrum for the constituents you serve and make it easier for citizens to access and fill. If nothing else more choice means more competition, more fitness, more fees, fines, income to the FCC and jobs in your commission. I sincerely believe the world would be much better for it.

I am also writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I am voicing my support to retain all the FCC rules in question. These rules set limits on concentration of the broadcast industry and serve the public interest by preserving diversity of ownership in the broadcast marketplace. These rules are; The Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule, The Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, The National Television Ownership Rule, The Duopoly Rule for Radio, The Local Television Ownership Rule, and The Dual Network Rule.

The great privilege to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events, both locally and globally, is part of the founding philosophy of this country. If the avenues for sharing information are restricted to very few, then I fear that the quality of the information presented will decay. What is the value of varied information sources when they are controlled by a single voice?

As a creator of independent media, I know first hand the importance of freedom of expression. The ability to say things that are potentially challenging to audiences at large, or possibly critical of society's sacred cows and special interests, lies at the heart of the independent media maker's business. Already it is difficult to work outside the established system. If the channels to a potential audience - be they cable programming channels, local television stations, or even newspapers that promote and review independent works - fall into the hands of even fewer corporate owners, sharing my work or the work of any independent artist will become much harder.

In such an environment, the commercial interest inevitably compromises the public interest. The FCC has rules limiting ownership to preserve the ecology of a healthy marketplace of ideas. If the FCC undermines this ecology by removing the rules, it undermines the future health of the marketplace of information.

Congress and the Supreme Court have long recognized that a functioning democracy depends on a media open to independent and unconventional news and a varied entertainment media. Media makers working outside the corporate environment

continually provide content that is so defined. This unconventionality and variety that stimulates the American people both causes us to constantly question the status quo, and facilitates the ability of Americans to speak with one another. If we exist in an environment in which our news outlets have merged together, both print and broadcast, our ability to open informed discussion is restricted.

I urge you to rule in the public interest on this matter. The public interest will be served by preserving the FCC's Broadcast Media ownership rules.

Thank you,

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